



NOTES FROM THE:

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Budget

by Major General Larry W. Northington

Realignment of Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Roles and Responsibilities

After extensive study, SAF/IA and SAF/FM agreed to functionally realign financial management roles and responsibilities to better address the fiduciary responsibility and authority required to successfully manage and execute International Affairs programs throughout the Air Force. The first phase of the realignment took place at the Secretariat level with transfer of two positions from SAF/IA to SAF/FMB in October 2000. The second phase will explore standardization of DFAS support and determine if similar MAJCOM/FM-IA functional realignments are needed. Tiger teams are currently reviewing the current processes, procedures, and manpower requirements necessary to replicate the SAF realignment at field installations.

Financial Information Resource Systems (FIRST) Update

Requirements definition activities are continuing for the FIRST. SAF/FMBMA-S is currently documenting requirements for budget formulation. The budget formulation efforts encompass the Program Objective Memorandum (POM), Budget Estimate Submission (BES), President's Budget (PB), and the Financial Plan processes. Requirements definition for the budget formulation is based on the IDEF business process modeling and contacts with Subject Matter Experts at all levels. SAF/FMBMA-S recently requested an update from the Air Force budget community due to the large changes in e-mail addresses and the normal rotation of assigned personnel.

The ESC Financial SPO is near the completion of source selection activities for the FIRST application software development. When the FIRST application development contract is awarded, the initial FIRST development spiral will be Acquire Accounting. This spiral will create a data warehouse of accounting information from the General Accounting and Finance System ("BQ"), Central Procurement Accounting System, and Civilian Pay Accounting Information System. The systems will forward daily updates initially with near real-time updates as these systems are modernized through

the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) efforts.

Other Budget Systems Updates

MicroBAS. A new software version 3.1 was released 1 February 2001 to enhance the software to accomplish the Major Command finplan preparation and submission to SAF/FMB. The new software update was demonstrated to SAF/FMBO in early February 2001. This update will enable the Major Commands to prepare their finplan and also the ability to electronically send their database to SAF/FMB where the database can be passed to other Air Staff functional areas for review of both data and narrative justifications.

Unclassified ABIDES Accounting. This initiative utilizes the existing ABIDES software on an unclassified environment. Daily updates from General Accounting and Finance System (GAFs) and Central Procurement Accounting System (CPAS) will be moved from the DFAS OPLOCs and their respective Defense Megacenter to the Pentagon environment. In March 2001 the information was made available to the Air Staff and Major Commands. Information will include all appropriations to include installation data by RCCC and 5-digit element of expense. This initiative will help eliminate the current transfer of GAFs information through the CITS/Paperview modules in CBAS as well as removing the DBT reporting from CBAS.

ABIDES Funds Pilot. This initiative will replace the ABIDES Funds Control System with a modernized Funds Management System with a graphical user interface. The system will feature electronic funding transactions, merged program authority and budget authorizations, and electronic interfaces with DFAS accounting systems. This system will be implemented at the Air Staff (Phase 1) in summer 2001 and Major Commands (Phase 2) yet to be determined. The Phase 2 effort will replace the CBAS funds control modules at the Major Command level.

FY02 Financial Plan

All commands are now working to develop an executable strategy for their FY02 operations and

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maintenance program. Your FY02 funding bogey was developed from the first round of the PB prior to the review by the new Administration. We will reflect any changes to the O&M topline in the OBRC file after the summer O&M review. The purpose of the finplan is to adjust the PB funding for fact-of-life changes that have occurred since commands originally submitted their FY02 POM more than a year ago. Your finplan and supporting mechanized file are used to rebaseline the O&M program and to defend those changes to OSD and to the Congress. Execution year changes that are not captured in your finplan must be supported through Below Threshold Reprogramming which is limited to \$15M between budget activities. Therefore, your financial plan should be executable; the closer the plan is to how you will actually execute your budget allows more flexibility to support changes in budget requirements during the year. We appreciate your hard work in producing a credible, executable budget.

